AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [8] with the following amended paragraph:

[8]   Further, a value "1111" at a request type region of the byte structures is defined as a "lockout", "1110" is a "forced switch", and "1101" is a "signal fail-high priority". Moreover, a value of "1000" is a "manual switch", "0010" [[as]] is a "reverse request", "0001" is a "do not revert", and "0000" [[as]] is a "no request".

Please replace paragraph [19] with the following amended paragraph:

[19]   By way of example, when a SF is detected when the working side 11 [[in]] and the source station 10 is active, the working side 11 transmits a request signal SF+ATOB to the target station 20, as show in step ST1. The working side 21 in the target station 20 compares a priority of a new request or new event with that of a current event, and then transmits a RR signal RR+BWORK to the source station 10 if the priority of the new event is higher than that of the current one as shown in step ST2.

Please replace paragraph [47] with the following amended paragraph:

[47]   The APS function is preferably performed when the working sides 11 and 21 of the source station 10 and target station 20, respectively, are active and a SF or SD occurs in those sides. The APS function may also be performed [[or]] when the protection sides 12 and 22 of the source station 10 and target station 20, respectively, are active and a SF or SD occurs in those sides.